



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

517 East Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Press Release

July 15, 2008

**TWENTY SEVEN DEFENDANTS CHARGED IN HEROIN DRUG CONSPIRACY CASE
WHICH RESULTED IN 5 DEATHS IN MILWAUKEE AND WAUKESHA COUNTIES**

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced that yesterday, twenty-seven defendants were charged in federal court in a drug conspiracy case. According to the criminal complaint, from sometime in January 2007, the defendants, knowingly and intentionally conspired with each other and others to distribute heroin. The complaint also alleges that death and serious bodily injury resulted from the use of heroin distributed by the conspiracy; all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A), and Title 18, United States Code § 2.

The defendants were identified as Lonnie L. Johnson of Chicago (age: 31), Jermaine J. Stewart of Milwaukee (age: 24), Eneal D. Gladney of Milwaukee (age: 30), Keith D. Walker of Milwaukee (age: 20) Jeffrey L. Walker of Milwaukee (age: 38) Terrance L. Marshall of Milwaukee (age: 40), Luke J. Bandkowski of Waukesha (age: 28), Michael J. Bandkowski of Waukesha (age: 29), Ross A. Huberty of Waukesha (age: 21), Jean C. Lawler of Fayetteville NC (age: 22), Jason M. Lund of Wauwatosa (age: 23), Justin B. Hager of Waukesha (age: 24), Candice J. Haid of Waukesha (age: 20), Michael J. Zivnuska of Menomonee Falls (age: 22), Nathalee K. Romeo of Waukesha (age: 20), Marlana J. Socha of Pewaukee (age: 20), Thomas A. Brinkman of Pewaukee (age: 19), Eric A. Russell of Pewaukee (age: 19), Adam McCormack of Delafield (age: 28), Bryant Abkes- Knight of Pewaukee (age: 18), Leroy K. Rushing of Pewaukee (age: 21), Brittney M. Dorshak of Muskego (age: 20), Kayla Stefaniak of Muskego (age: 24), Jennifer Topczewski of Muskego (age: 24), Donald A. Erickson of Appleton (age: 33), Kallie M. Klappa of Muskego (age: 22) and Michelle M. Turner of Pewaukee (age: 20).

An affidavit filed in federal court alleges that Lonnie Johnson (formally of Milwaukee) was the primary source of heroin supply. Jermaine Stewart and other conspirators from Milwaukee traveled to Chicago every two weeks to purchase heroin. The affidavit alleges Stewart distributed the heroin to Milwaukee area defendants, who in-turn distributed heroin on the near north side of Milwaukee. In addition the affidavit alleges, drug dealers from Waukesha purchased heroin from Stewart and other Milwaukee distributors repackaged and later sold these drugs to conspirators in Waukesha county.

Information in the affidavit alleges that the heroin sales conducted by this DTO have directly led to four overdose deaths in Waukesha County and one in Milwaukee County. Deaths occurred in the communities of Waukesha, Muskego, Pewaukee and Milwaukee. In addition, the affidavit alleges that six non-death overdose incidents occurred in Waukesha county. In at least four of these overdose incidents extreme measures were taken to keep the victim alive. "Narcan", the trade-marked brand name and common term for the opioid antagonist, Naxolone was deployed to revive the victims.

According to the affidavit the alleged Waukesha County distributors were Luke and Michael Bandkowski, Michael Zivnuska, Nathalee Romeo, Jason Lund, Eric Russell, Marlana Socha, Michelle Turner, and later Thomas Brinkman, Eric Russell, Richard Oliver, Bryant Abkes-Knight and Candice Haid. Often, customers would pool money together to purchase heroin. The affidavit alleges the larger amounts of heroin purchased would be for personal use and to sell to friends to make money for additional heroin purchases.

According to United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic, "This case and others similar to it demonstrate that drug conspiracies are a regional problem, not just a Milwaukee problem. The public needs to appreciate that drug dealers do not worry or care about city or county borders. The charges today demonstrate that law enforcement officers from multiple jurisdictions are responding to the growing increase and effects of heroin distribution.

Biskupic commended the multiple law enforcement agencies who were involved in this eighteen-month joint investigation including: the Milwaukee High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), the Drug Enforcement Administration, the State of Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigations, the Waukesha County District Attorney's office, Waukesha County Sheriffs office, Muskego Police Department, Village of Pewaukee Police Department and the City of Pewaukee Police Departments. Biskupic also commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Dan Sanders and DEA Special Agent Ellen Roy for their continued work on heroin cases. Both were involved in the Ozaukee County heroin charges last year.

As currently charged all defendants, if convicted, face between 20 years and life imprisonment, a fine of up to \$4,000,000 and 5 years to life on supervised release.

It should be noted that the charges filed against the defendants does not constitute inference of his or her guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government establishes his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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